

Directorate holds 34th Annual Awards luncheon

by Carol Young, Air Vehicles Directorate

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO — The Air Vehicles Directorate of the Air Force research Laboratory recently held its 34th Annual Air Vehicles Awards luncheon. This is the premier recognition event for the directorate honoring outstanding performers for the past year to include winners for the General Benjamin D. Foulois Award and the Dr. Courtland D. Perkins In-House Engineering Award.

The Foulois Award was established in 1965 to honor engineers and scientists who made the most significant contributions to aerospace technology. This year's winners for this most prestigious award were the team of Dr. Datta V. Gaitonde and Dr. Miguel V. Visbal. The team made a significant breakthrough in creating a high-resolution numerical algorithm for multidisciplinary simulation.

The Perkins Award was established in 1990 to honor engineers and scientists who made the most significant in-house contributions to aerospace technology. The team of Mr. William Strang, Dr. Robert Tomaro, Dr. Matthew Grismer and Mr. Kenneth Wurtzler came out on top for this premier in-house award. Their winning in-house effort was based on the significant scientific and engineering accomplishments in their development, application and support of the Cobalt60 parallel, unstructured-grid, computational fluid dynamics method.

Other categories and winners included:

Leadership Award, Mr. Brian Van Vliet for outstanding leadership in creating VA's new technology vision and in building the new Fixed Wing Vehicle Program; Outstanding Management Award, Capt "Lance" Chenault for outstanding contributions as program manager for the Active Core Exhaust Control System transitioned to the C-17 aircraft; Supervisor of the Year Award, Maj. Erica Robertson for directing daily operations of 120-person division researching advanced aerospace vehicle structures technologies; Senior S&E Award, Dr. Keith Numbers for leadership in the area of propulsion and weapons integration, planning for future strike systems technology, and transfer of technology to new commercial applications for aircraft deicing; Junior S&E Award, Mr. Barth Shenk for execution of original in-house research to executive level planning of technology development; Outstanding Staff Support Award, Mr. "Chief" Joe David for a litany of financial tasks and demonstration of personal initiative and dedication, also Ms. Carol Young for marketing and advocating VA's new image through events and marketing products; Technician Award, Mr. Tom Norris for outstanding work performed in preparation of test articles and instrumentation used in the Mach 6 wind tunnel, also Mr. William McHugh for originating, designing, and prototyping a Redundant Safety System that advanced the state-of-the-art in load control protection systems for mechanically loaded test articles; Doris C. Mooney Award, Mrs. Sandi Moorman for outstanding performance as branch secretary and executive secretary to director of center of excellence plus many additional duties; Team Award, Mr. Al Boudreau, Mr. Howard Emsley, Mr. Brian Van Vliet, Dr. Yvette Weber, and Mr. Mike Zeigler for focusing and revolutionizing VA's technology planning and prioritization process plus revamping/revitalizing the Fixed Wing Vehicle Program resulting in accolades from senior cadre, both government and industry and; Special Director's Award, Mr. Phil Mitchell for having significant, positive impact on the directorate through advice and counsel to the director.

Added to the above long-standing, traditional awards was the first annual Spirit Award. This newly created award will be presented yearly to the individual who best exemplifies the “spirit” of the Air Vehicles Directorate. This first year award winner was Dr. Bill Borger. @